

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
HOLY CROSS DAY



God loves the whole world.

HOLY CROSS DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Cross Day observance.

Monday	John 3:13-21	God so loved the world
	Numbers 21:4b-9	The serpent of bronze
	1 Corinthians 1:18-24	Message of the cross
	Psalms 78:1-2, 34-38	God's goodness

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Cross Day:

God of steadfast love, help us to remember that you hate nothing that you have created and that you love the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fed the Israelites in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today with this food and nourishing us with your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves the world shine brightly on you with the light of Christ.



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HYMN FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

*All Hail the Power of
Jesus Name*

HOLY CROSS DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you really love to do.
- How do you show love for others?
- God created the whole world and loves it. How does the cross of Christ show God's love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 3:13-21.

These words from Jesus are part of a conversation he is having with Nicodemus who had come to see Jesus by night. There is a contrast here between those who love the darkness (initially Nicodemus) and those who "come to the light" (v. 21). Nicodemus would eventually be drawn to the light by defending Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:51-52) and preparing Jesus' body after his crucifixion (John 19:39). In the Gospel of John, following and believing in Jesus can be a journey of coming to the light and gaining eternal life, as Nicodemus does. Darkness cannot choose light; it must be overcome by the light. The judgement of which Jesus speaks is remaining in the dark. Eternal life is having the light of Christ overcome the darkness that prevents us from seeing and loving Jesus. How has the light of Christ helped you in challenging times or times of darkness?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and to the light of Christ that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.**

SERVICE

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is a Christian symbol. For hundreds of years, September 14th has been observed as a day to honor the cross as a sign of salvation. Take notice of the crosses you see today. Think or talk about the message they give to people. *"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18). Jesus dying on the cross showed God's power of light over darkness. Jesus died to save us. Take a moment to think about how you have shown the light of Jesus to others. Place a cross next to a candle. Light the candle and say: **Jesus is the light of the world. The light no darkness overcomes.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org